

REMARKS

Claims 1-14, 16, 17 and 19-26 are rejected. Claims 15, 18 and 27 are objected to. Claims 2-5, 7-8, 10-13, 15, 18-19, and 27 have been amended. Claims 1, 6, 9, 14, 16, 17, and 26 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 2-5, 7-8, 10-13, 15, 18-25, and 27 are now pending in the application.

*Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §112*

Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 6 (and dependent claim 7) were rejected for having improper antecedent basis. While claim 6 has been canceled, the feature at issue has been incorporated explicitly into claim 7. The “database” is properly referred to as “a database” in claim 7. Accordingly, Applicants believe that this rejection has been overcome.

*Allowable Claims*

Claims 15, 18, and 27 were identified as being allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 7 was also identified as being allowable if rewritten in independent form and if proper antecedent basis was provided. Office Action, p. 6. Claims 7, 15, 18, and 27 have accordingly been rewritten. Applicants assert that these claims are now allowable.


*Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103*

Claims 1-6, 8-14, 16, 19-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lynch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,515,524) (hereinafter referred to as “Lynch”). Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lynch and Kauffman (U.S. Patent No. 6,633,916). Claims 1, 6, 9, 14, 16, 17, and 26 have been canceled. Claims 2-5, 8, 10-13, and 19-25 now each depend from a respective one of independent claims 7, 15, 18, and 27. Since these independent claims have been identified as being allowable, claims 2-5, 8, 10-13, and 19-25 are also believed to be allowable over the cited art.

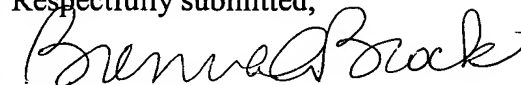
CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5087.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 4, 2005.

  
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Respectfully submitted,



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